

SITUATION REPORT NO 2

INCIDENT NO. 97-003

DATE: January 11, 1997

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Extremely cold temperature, in the 20 to 35 degrees below zero range with accompanying winds driving the windchill to 60 to 80 below zero, coupled with snow accumulations of up to 60 inches over the past three days, has crippled the transportation system throughout the state. Blizzard conditions continue to cripple the eastern portion of the state.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: One death has been attributed to the storm. Numerous residents have been treated for exposure and frost bite after being rescued from stranded vehicles. A report has been received from Mandan, North Dakota, that up to 25 people were treated for Carbon Monoxide exposure due to vents being blocked by snow and ice.
3. DAMAGE: Blocked roads caused cancellation of business activities. Stores and businesses have closed due to the extreme cold. One truck stop at Beach, North Dakota, in the western part of the state has more than 90 semi trucks in the lot due to blocked roads.

Farmers and ranchers are continuing to experience problems with limited feed supplies. Reports have been received of cattle dying due to lack of feed and exposure to the extreme windchill temperatures of sixty to eighty below zero.

The Burlington Northern/Santa Fe railroad has reported a rail blockage approximately 30 miles east of the City of Bismarck, causing at least three freight trains to be held up in a rail siding. BN/SF personnel are working to remove the snow from rail lines.

On January 9th and 10th, schools in about 90 percent of the state have been closed

due to blizzard conditions and extreme cold weather.

Closure of the Interstate Highways in the state has resulted in delays of United States Mail service from the Regional Mail centers at Bismarck and Fargo.

Over the road fuel tankers have not been able to deliver bulk fuel into the state's fuel distribution system. This has caused very low inventories in the local fuel distribution system.

Forty-three of the fifty-three counties in the state report that county roads are closed due to snow and that county and state Department of Transportation personnel are working to open roads according to the established snow removal plans.

A number of emergency dispatch units were delayed due to road conditions. In one case, an ambulance trip for a heart attack victim was delayed while the road to the hospital was cleared.

The County Sheriff of Burke County has stated that the United States port of entry at Portal will be closed at dusk, due to extremely limited visibility and very poor road conditions.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED: Local jurisdictions are contracting for snow removal resources
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Private citizens are helping their neighbors in snow clearing efforts. Some private individuals have cleared the road for ambulances that were needed in outlying areas.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Governor has declared a snow disaster and has requested that the President of the United States Declare a major disaster for the entire state.

Barnes County and the City of Grand Forks has declared an Emergency Declaration.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous report.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous report.
9. OTHER: No change from previous report.

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director